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Extended Care

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College of DuPage

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EXTENDED CARE

Mary Ramsey

I see an old man.

He looks a little like my father,
or my fathers' father maybe-
although I never knew him,
or how he might have looked.

I see an old man
wearing clothes I do not know,
clown pants and suspenders
on a scarecrow frame-

blank windows of a vacant house,
the blank face of nobody home.
Has he gone home to yesterday?
Can he find his way back today?

Still, something is familiar,
I know the shape of who he is
the structure of his framework,
mirrored reflection that we share.

I sit beside the old man.
Reaching out to who he was,
passing by what he is now,
I recognize that he is still the same.

I hold in my lap the hands
that once held all my world.
"Hi Daddy"
He sees me, he smiles, and

I am a child again.